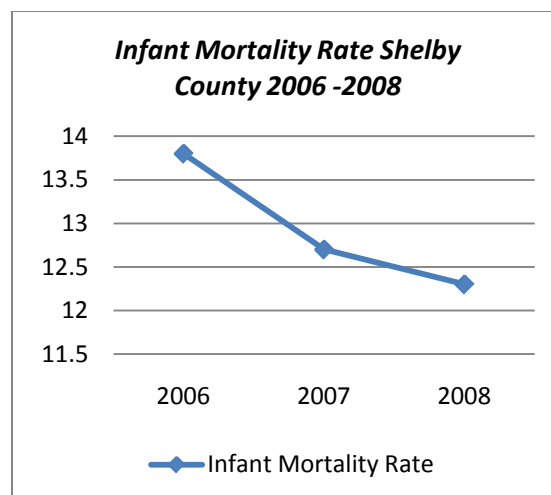


## Infant Mortality: Progress in Shelby County

In 2006, Shelby County experienced an infant death rate of 13.8 per 1000 live births. Shelby County's high rate of infant deaths prompted the Governor's Office of Child Care Coordination to create the Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative (IMRI). Out of this initiative a series of programs were brought into Shelby County to combat infant Mortality. Since the initiation of these programs, Shelby County has seen a 12% decrease in the infant mortality rates. One of the programs the IMRI sought to bring to Shelby County was a Fetal and Infant Mortality Review, in an effort to understand community specific causes of fetal and infant death. FIMR was established July 1, 2009.



### Primary Medical Causes of Death for Babies Born in Shelby County in 2008

Medical Causes	Number	Percent
Short Gestation and Low Birth Weight	50	27.0
Congenital Anomalies	31	16.7
Accidents (unintentional)	13	7.0
SIDS	9	5.0
Placenta or Cord Complications	7	3.4
Neonatal Hemorrhage	5	2.7
Diseases of the Circulatory System	4	2.2
Respiratory Distress	4	2.2
Maternal Complications	2	1.1
Bacterial Sepsis	1	0.54
Other Causes	60	32.3

Before the implementation of a FIMR program, Shelby County was only able to describe infant deaths in terms of medical causes of death. The addition of a FIMR allows us to also examine maternal characteristics in relation to cause of death and determine where to intervene. Based on the data below, our resources and programs should focus on maternity care, newborn care, and infant health.

### Demographic Characteristics of Women in Shelby County Who Experienced an Infant Death Compared to Those with a Live Birth Still Living at 365 Days - 2008

Demographic Characteristics	% Live Births	% Infant Deaths
<b>Race</b>		
White, Non-Hispanic	27.0	12.0
Black, Non-Hispanic	60.0	84.4
Hispanic	11.0	3.2
<b>Maternal Age</b>		
<20 Years	15.4	24.1
20 - 34 Years	76.0	63.0
35 + Years	10.0	13.0
<b>Education</b>		
Less than High School	28.4	37.0
High School	25.4	30.0
More than High School	46.0	33.3
<b>BMI</b>		
Normal	44.0	28.0
Obese	24.0	37.1
Overweight	24.0	16.1
Underweight	9.0	19.0
<b>Prenatal Care Entry</b>		
None	8.4	25.0
1st Trimester	55.3	43.0
2nd Trimester	25.0	19.3
3rd Trimester	7.0	4.3
<b>Diseases and Behaviors</b>		
Smokes	7.1	16.1
Chronic Diseases	2.0	5.3
Infection During Pregnancy	18.0	15.0

### Map of Infant Deaths-Shelby County 2006-2008

	Neonatal	Post neonatal
Birth weight 500-1499 grams	<b>Maternal Health/ Prematurity</b> N= 44	N= 151
	<b>Newborn Care</b> N= 122	<b>Infant Health</b> N= 92
1500+ grams		

**Note:** White infants account for 27% of the live births who are still living at age 1 in Shelby County, and account only for 12% of the infant deaths. All things being equal, one would expect the percentage of live births to approximate the percentage of infant deaths.

Created by Memphis and Shelby County Health Department: Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Team June 2009